

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over SHAPIRA (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,641) in view of DEAN (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,970). The Examiner indicated claims 40 and 41 to be allowable.

By the present Response, and without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejection of claims 36-39, Applicants have canceled claims 36-39 in order to allow the present application to issue with indicated-to-be-allowable claims 40 and 41.

As noted above, Applicants do not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejection of claims 36-39. In this regard, Applicants note the arguments set forth in the Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on January 5, 2006 in the above-mentioned application. At least for the reasons set forth therein, Applicants submit that claims 36-39 are clearly patentable over the references of record herein. However, merely in order to expedite the allowance of the indicated-to-be-allowable subject matter, Applicants are choosing to cancel the rejected claims so as to enable the present application to expeditiously issue as a patent. Accordingly, Applicants cancellation of claims 36-39 is expressly made without prejudice and without any disclaimer of the subject matter. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a continuing application drawn to the features of claims 36-39.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending herein, in due course.

Applicants note that the status of the present application is after Final Rejection and that Applicants are not permitted, as a matter of right, to amend an application once a Final Rejection has issued. Nevertheless, in the present case, Applicants submit that entry of the present amendment is appropriate and proper in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In this regard, Applicants amendment does not raise any new issues requiring further consideration or search but rather clearly places the application in condition for allowance by merely canceling the rejected claims and thus resulting in an application having only indicated to be allowable claims pending therein.

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment and an indication of the allowability of the claims remaining therein is respectfully requested in due course.

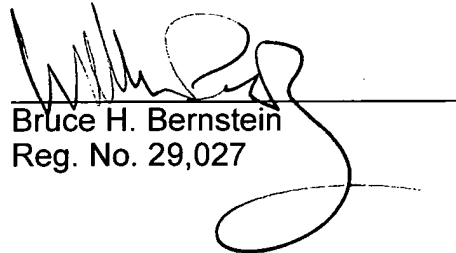
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have canceled all the rejected claims without prejudice or disclaimer and thus have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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